

361 the churches and railroad stations do the habi-

tations appear denser, not to mention the

housing projects which have risen around big

361 industrial concerns. The farmhouses are

● 342 situated near lake shores, wherever possible,

and are invariably surrounded by trees.

According to ancient tradition, each house

should be built under a large spruce tree, and

birch trees should stand in the vicinity for the

cuckoos to come and sing in the spring. Many

of the farmhouses are beautifully proportioned,

painted red with white corners and window

frames and surrounded by gardens with flowers

and blossoming bushes. The forest usually

begins directly behind the back yard and may

extend over hundreds of acres.

As for Finnish rural culture, there are no

528 intellectuals and workers alike, have summer cottages in the country, on an island or on a lake shore, while others rent rooms in farm-houses and cheerfully spend three months "roughing it." Near the cities the islands and shores are dotted with cottages, with gardens cleared around them, but many people prefer to find a summer home in a desolate, distant [654] locality. The possession of one's own cottage is valued much higher than ownership of a car, for example. The family leaves the city as soon as the schools close at the end of May, and the father, who must continue with his job in town, commutes between the two localities all through the summer, every day or on week-ends, depending on the distance. Many of the cottages are built by the owners themselves.

- 342 They may be quite simple and bare of modern conveniences--even electricity is not necessarily needed, for there is practically no night 343 during the summer months--but invariably there is a bathhouse somewhere on the property. As a rule, the bathhouse is the first and the most important building to be erected.

The bathhouses are a characteristic feature of the Finnish landscape. Every farm has one, and almost every dwelling, no matter how modest. According to recent estimations, there are about 400,000 bathhouses, not including the big commercial ones in the cities. On Saturday evenings, when rowing on a lake, one can see smoke rising out of the chimneys of a multitude of bathhouses at the water's edge, many of them very picturesque buildings. The bathhouse, or